which amounts of heavy financial burden on the company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Like all other Public Sector Units M/s. Traco Cable Company Ltd. is also required to furnish bank guarantee in accordance with the guidelines of Bureau of Public Enterprises (No. BPE/1(4)/ADV(F)/ 69 dated 3.11.72) which read as "Since the transactions between public sector enterprises and the Govt. Dept. are of commercial nature, it would not be appropriate to exempt the public undertakings from the bank guarantees in lieu of the security deposit for fullfilment of the contract. Such guarantees show the earnestness of the public sector enterprises for the fullfilment of the contract and in such cases the normal commercial principles shall be followed."

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allotment of Berths out of H.O.R. Quota

4149. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms and guidelines laid down by the Railway Board for allotment of berths out of H.O.R. quota;

(b) whether such norms and guidelines are being followed by the Commercial Officers in Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received the complaints regarding berths earmarked for H.O.R. quota are being sold through agents at Allahabad by a Commercial Officer; and

(e) if so the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as emergency quota to meet the urgent travel requirements of High official requisition holders, Minister, MPs/MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands.

Requests received from various quarters for release of berths/seats out of emergency quota are given due priority taking into account factors like status of the passengers travelling, nature of urgency like Government duty, bereavement, sickness etc. These guidelines are being strictly followed by the Commercial Officers of the Northern Railway.

(d) One such complaint was received.

(e) The complaint was of general nature without quoting any specific instance. However, constant watch is kept to prevent any misuse of the reservation quota.

Serious Track Condition

4150. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact tha track condition between Santragachi and Bargachia is very serious;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the track to increase the speed of the trains;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum passengers amenities in all the stations of Bargachia section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). All Railway stations are provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic.

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds

4151. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of appointments on compassionate ground are lying pending since 1990 with South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details of such cases in general and SCs and STs in particular;

(c) the reasons for delay in providing employment; and

(d) the time proposed to be taken for clearing all the cases of appointments on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Optical Fibre Cable in Delhi

4152. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install optical fibre cables for increasing the Telephone facilities in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Optical Fibre Cable has been inducted to a large extent in Junction Network and approximately 979 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in inter exchange Network of Delhi. Plans have been drawn to induct Optical Fibre Cable in Subscriber local loop also. During the current year 190 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in the network.

Expansion of Exchanges in Kerala

4153. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to expand the telephone exchanges in North Wynad of Kerala which is the most backward, hilly and tribal area;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start new telephone exchanges at Pariya and Valad in North Wynad; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All the six exchanges in North Wynad namely Mananthody, Panamaram, Thalapaoya, Vellamunda, Karthikulam and Korome are planned to be expanded during 1997-98. The exchange at Mnanthody will be expanded in 1996-97 also.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to start a new telephone exchange at Periya. However, a 256P C-DOT electronic telephone exchange has been planned at Valad during the year 1997-98.

Intra-City Radio Connectivity

4154. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted the intra-city radio or microwave connectivity for computer data and/or voice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the frequency band which has been or likely to be allowed to common users and upto what maximum and minimum distance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have granted licences for inter-city computer connectivity in various frequency bands, like 300 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands.

(c) The requirements of users can be considered on case by case basis depending on their needs. The distance for such operations would depend on various technical propagational factors.

Telephone Facilities in Gujarat

4155. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that rural areas of Gujarat lack sufficient telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any demand/scheme/proposal for opening of Telephone Exchange in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Government is aware that there is scope for improvement in telephone facilities in rural areas of Gujarat. However Gujarat has about 66% villages covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(c) and (d). The proposals based upon the demand for opening Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat for 1996-97 are enclosed in the Statement.

(e) The Government is taking all the necessary steps to improve the telephone facilities and opening new Telephone Exchanges wherever feasible on the basis of justified demands.

STATEMENT

Details of Rural Automatic Exchanges Planned in Gujarat Circle During 96-97

S.No.	Location	District	
1	2	3	
1.	Sachana	Ahmedabad	
2.	Sonara	"	
3.	Galudan	"	
4.	Vavera	Amreli	Commissioned
5.	Bhader	"	-do-
6.	Chamardi	"	
7.	Rustampura	Baroda	
8.	Jhagadia (GIDC)	Bharuch	Commissioned
9.	Paguthan	"	
10.	Ikher	"	
11.	Sisdara	"	
12.	Gajera	"	
13.	Varedia	"	
14.	Devpar	Bhuj	
15.	Vadasar	"	